

JUL 10 2001

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## SBC convenes for 144th annual session

NEW ORLEANS (BP and local reports) — More than 1,000 people were won to the Lord as hundreds of Southern Baptists answered the call of Jesus Christ to share their faith during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 12-13 in New Orleans.

The 144th meeting of Southern Baptists at the Louisiana Superdome included 9,561 messengers from 48 states and featured spirited gospel singing, fiery preaching, and a focused message on faith and family.

In a special presentation, Mississippi native James L. Sullivan, a Southern Baptist statesman who became a Christian four years before the Cooperative Program (CP) was born, was honored with the second annual M.E. Dodd Award for lifetime achievement in support of the SBC's CP process for funding worldwide missions.

Sullivan, who grew up in Tylertown and is currently a Nashville retiree, served as pastor of several churches; president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; president of

the SBC; and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources).

Sullivan is the second recipient of the award. Former Mississippi pastor Jim Henry, currently pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., was the first recipient.

KEY SUPPORTER — Mississippi native James L. Sullivan, president of the former Baptist Sunday School Board, received the M.E. Dodd Award for support of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. (BP photo by Justin Veneman)

In his annual address, SBC President James Merritt described the spiritual opposition

Christians are facing in America. "There are battles raging outside of this arena, and we need to be on the frontlines," he said in his June 12 presidential address, referring to the battle for the souls of men and women.

More than 1,000 out-of-town volunteers joined New Orleans Baptists in evangelistic events throughout the metropolitan area.

In addition to one-on-one witnessing opportunities, Crossover events prior to the SBC annual meeting included block parties, door-to-door canvassing, special festivals, church services, and a "Kindness Explosion" offering free water and other gifts to merchants and vendors in the French Quarter and public housing areas.

Officials at the SBC's North American Mission Board (NAMB) reported more than 1,200 professions of faith as a result of Crossover efforts.

Tom Elliff, chairman of the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life, told messengers that "families will not be rescued because we think God owes it to us. Families in America — and families in our



SBC MEETS IN DOME — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meet in the Louisiana Superdome in downtown New Orleans. The 144th annual national session of the SBC, in its 156th year, was held June 12-13. (BP photo by Van Payne)

convention — will be rescued because we decide to do something about it."

The council was established at the SBC meeting last year in Orlando, Fla. Elliff, a former SBC president and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., said the council's charge is to present a strat-

egy for how Southern Baptists can not only strengthen their own marriages, but also proclaim to the nation they are family friendly.

Elliff said a full report on the council's work will be completed next year.

Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, delivered a passionate and historic convention sermon to thousands of foot-stomping, hand-clapping messengers (see article on page four).

NAMB President Robert E. Reccord called on Southern Baptists June 13 to go on a "rescue mission" to save millions of people across the country.

Reccord announced the availability of new media resources to support churches in presenting a message of hope in their cities. Two new television commercials may be obtained free of charge by churches that contact the agency by June 30.

In other convention action, Merritt, senior pastor of the Atlanta-area First Church, Snellville, Ga., and former pastor of Highland Church, Laurel, was re-elected president without opposition for a second one-year term. He will not be eligible for re-election after this term.

Ed Litton, pastor of First Church, North Mobile, Ala., was elected first vice president of the convention.

Retired U.S. Air Force General T.C. Pinckney, a layman from Good News Church in Alexandria, Va., was elected second vice president.

John Yeats, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, was re-elected without opposition to a fifth term as the convention's recording secretary.

Lee Porter, a retired denomination employee from Georgia, was elected to his 25th term as registration secretary.



HAVE FAITH — Bobby Welch, creator of the FAITH witness program, passionately urges his fellow ministers to purposefully be witnesses, during his sermon at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 10 in the Louisiana Superdome. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

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PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 21, 2001

VOL. 125

NO. 20

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Kim: U.S. needs revival

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Miss. pair serve as pages



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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VOLUME 125 NUMBER 20  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

## After the convention

The 144th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is now in the realm of history. Gathering June 12-13 in the Louisiana Superdome in downtown New Orleans, messengers from Southern Baptist churches across the country and around the world loudly praised the Lord and solidly voted to keep the SBC on its present, unabashedly conservative course.

There was an interesting mix of old and new. While embracing Christ's 2000-year-old Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) during the pre-convention Crossover New Orleans evangelistic campaign that resulted in more than 1,000 professions of faith, Crossover planners also availed themselves of modern mass communication techniques with a 10-day television advertising blitz prior to the campaign.

While about 9600 messengers felt the meeting was important enough to travel long distances to attend, World Wide Web aficionados were able to use the latest Internet technology to view the entire annual meeting in real time on their personal computers.

There was a reassuring report on the state of race relations in the SBC. Sid Smith, executive director of the Black Southern Baptist Denominational Servants Network, described the marked increase in African American denominational workers over the last year as a significant accomplishment.

"It's a new day in the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Southern Baptist women invaded Satan's strongholds against their gender, boldly walking into the notorious strip joints of Bourbon Street and witnessing to the "exotic dancers" who degrade themselves for the pleasure of their male customers.

While a group of Baptist women entered the clubs, another group of Baptist women remained outside to pray for them and the lost women inside.

The newly-formed Southern Baptist Council on Family Life issued a preliminary report on its work, with chairman Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., observing that the group is still in the discovery stage and plans to add more members in the near future in an effort to become more ethnic and gender-diverse.

"There is no more winsome argument for the Gospel than a healthy, Christ-centered family," Elliff noted.

Except for a minor, informal confrontation in the press area between Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, there were no political fireworks to report.

Messengers handily beat back attempts to alter last year's revision of the Baptist Faith and Message. Most of the resolutions and motions approved by messengers dealt with non-controversial topics.

As opposed to previous annual meetings, there weren't any "hot button" issues for secular reporters to spotlight, such as the Disney boycott or the statements on women's role in the family and church.

"I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE CURRENT SBC CONFLICT—PREVIOUSLY, WE HAD TO BLAME OUR FAILURES ON COMPLACENCY AND SIN!"



What will happen after the adjournment of this 2001 annual meeting?

It is the hopeful prayer of millions of Southern Baptists around the world that God will continue to use us in a mighty way to help bring a lost world to salvation in Jesus Christ.

He has given us the means. He has given us the motivation. He has given us the Holy Spirit. He has given us his Son.

What more do we need to accomplish the task at hand?

## GUEST OPINION:



### Helping those who served the Lord

By Robin D. Nichols, associate  
CMRA Department, MBCB

you discover an elderly minister or his widow who needs assistance, please contact the Church Minister Relations and Annuity (CMRA) Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The address

is P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. The telephone numbers are (601) 292-3226 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 226. The e-mail address is [rnichols@mbcb.org](mailto:rnichols@mbcb.org). How can you help? The fol-

lowing ideas can get you started:

- Be sure your pastor and church staff are enrolled in the AB Church Annuity Plan. Only 56% of our churches participate.

- As an individual, send a monthly check to AB for the Adopt An Annuitant program, which sends \$75 each month to qualified recipients. Individuals can also send a one-time donation. Fifteen thousand dollars endows an elderly minister or widow for life.

- Your Sunday School class can adopt the practice of collecting money each Sunday. This need can be added to your church's budget. Monthly checks or a one-time amount can be sent.

- A special offering can be collected on Adopt An Annuitant Sunday, to be observed this year on June 24. An offering collected at Vacation Bible School can be donated.

- Senior adults in your church or association can collect funds.

- Individuals can collect newspapers or aluminum cans for recycling and donate the proceeds to the program.

- Retired ministers and widows in your church and your local Baptist community can be identified, and their names forwarded to the CMRA department.

Let's say "yes" to eliminating some of the perplexing choices of our elderly saints who have faithfully served our Lord.



ADOPT AN ANNUITANT SUNDAY

June 24, 2001



# Crossover records 1,041 decisions for Christ

NEW ORLEANS (Editor's Network) — At least 1,041 people made professions of faith as a result of Crossover New Orleans, the evangelistic blitz preceding the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting.

Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Allison put a damper on several Crossover events.

Ultimately more than 1,200 individuals had prayed to receive Jesus Christ as of June 13, and nearly 40 churches made significant progress in impacting their communities, and that was with several block parties postponed because of the weather.

The bulk of conversions resulted from an inner-city evangelism team sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB). That team, which spent time on the city's notoriously bawdy Bourbon

Street, was responsible for 520 professions of faith, according to Don Smith, a Crossover coordinator for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Other people took part in a "kindness explosion." Evangelist Jeff Harvel of Morristown, Tenn., his wife, Kim, and children, Collin, 3, and Katy, 9, passed out bottles of water, free long-distance phone cards, and packets provided by Woman's Missionary Union groups from Louisiana.

"We handed out hundreds of packets and bottled water," Harvel said.

People especially were receptive to taking the items



ALL IN THE FAMILY — Kim Harvel (left) hands a packet of evangelism materials to a tourist in New Orleans' historic French Quarter, while her son Collin, 3, hands the tourist a bottle of water. Harvel and her husband Jeff, an itinerant evangelist, are members of the Calvary Church, Morristown, Tenn. Her husband is a member of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, which participated in the Crossover evangelistic effort held annually in the host city of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

from his children, he added.

Stationed in an area near the popular Cafe Du Monde in New Orleans, the family shared Christ with people from all walks of life, he said. "We were able to minister to the world in that one spot."

Jerry Drace, an evangelist from Jackson, Tenn., said he talked about his Christian faith with four lesbians who said they traveled to New Orleans specifically to boycott the SBC annual meeting.

The opportunity to minister came when one of the women passed by Drace and he offered her a bottle of water. When asked, "What's the catch?" Drace

replied: "There is no catch. We are giving it out in the name of Jesus, who is the living water."

That gesture enabled Drace to talk with the four women in a non-threatening way, he said. "They were very surprised that I did not confront them, but rather presented the plan of salvation to them and told them God loves them."

Another 299 decisions were recorded at block parties. Hosted by area churches, volunteers provided entertainment, meals, and fellowship to reach out to the neighborhoods.

Helpers came from congregations throughout the country to sing, cook, counsel, or offer other assistance.

"We kept busy and wet," said Art Sauer, youth minister for Lakewood Church, Louisville, Ky. The church team of 16 teenagers and 15 adults came to perform with puppets, drama, a band, and

interpretive movement.

Sauer said the church where his group originally was scheduled to work postponed its party because of rain. When he called another church to offer help, he found that church's entertainment had not shown up.

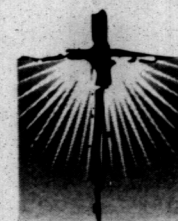
"I said, 'We can help you.' ... It was just divine providence," he said. "We just let God work. It was awesome."

Heavy rains kept many neighbors away from the party at First Church, Belle Chase, but the church fellowship and working with volunteers from other congregations was a needed blessing, according to Pastor Freddie Williford. "It reaffirms that we're not in this alone," he said.

"We needed this as well, and God knew this day was going to be the day it was long before we did, and he knew we needed this," Williford added.

"Being willing to be obedient determines success, not numbers," he said.

Crossover leaders said another 128 people became Christians as a result of



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 21, 2001

VOL. 125

No. 20

## Storm hampers attendance

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — While the rains that drenched southeast Louisiana and neighboring Texas ended just in time for the start of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), severe flooding from the remnants of Tropical Storm Allison likely kept a number of messengers from the 144th session of the SBC, June 12-13 at the Louisiana Superdome. As of 2:30 p.m. June 13, 9,561 Southern Baptists had registered as messengers from their churches, according to unofficial figures compiled by SBC registration secretary Lee Porter. Registration for last year's SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., totaled 11,951. Georgia recorded the largest number of messengers with 936. Other leading states were Tennessee with 858; North Carolina, 790; Mississippi, 770; and Alabama, 731. Unofficial state-by-state registration numbers are: Alabama, 731; Alaska, 12; Arizona, 41; Arkansas, 327; California, 117; Colorado, 45; Connecticut, 2; District of Columbia, 12; Florida, 728; Georgia, 936; Hawaii, 4; Idaho, 6; Illinois, 180; Indiana, 83; Iowa, 10; Kansas, 58; Kentucky, 427; Louisiana, 683; Maine, 1; Maryland, 73; Massachusetts, 2; Michigan, 36; Minnesota, 5; Mississippi, 770; Missouri, 263; Montana, 1; Nebraska, 5; Nevada, 24; New Hampshire, 6; New Jersey, 12; New Mexico, 39; New York, 39; North Carolina, 790; North Dakota, 2; Ohio, 159; Oklahoma, 235; Oregon, 8; Pennsylvania, 28; South Carolina, 555; South Dakota, 1; Tennessee, 858; Texas, 719; Utah, 12; Vermont, 2; Virginia, 363; Washington, 13; West Virginia, 47; Wisconsin, 4; Wyoming, 1. The territory of Puerto Rico had one messenger attending. Two states, Delaware and Rhode Island, had no registered messengers.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Speaking at the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta, convention president and native Mississippian Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, tells messengers the 12-year debate "over the nature of Scripture has been settled."

### 20 years ago

At the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Los Angeles, Calif., convention president Bailey Smith stands firmly on the adequacy of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement. "The Baptist Faith and Message statement is as strong as we need to get," Smith says.

### 50 years ago

An African-American woman, Daisy Pleasants, who spent her life as a domestic worker, wills one-fourth of her estate to the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention. Her gift amounts to \$1,387.50, according to FMB treasurer Everett L. Deane.



# N.O. pastor Luter rouses SBC messengers

## Fellowship to restore SBC ties

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship during its annual meeting June 11 ruled as unconstitutional a decision earlier this year by its former president to sever ties with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The group then elected a new slate of officers. About 45 members of the fellowship attending the meeting at the Superdome invalidated the attempt to withdraw the fellowship from the SBC, citing the organization's failure to ratify the decision through a constitutionally required amendment.

NEW ORLEANS (Editor's Network) — Fred Luter made history at last week's Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in New Orleans — and brought thousands of messengers to their feet in doing it.

In delivering a full-throttle convention sermon, Luter became the first African-American in the denomination's history to bring the annual keynote address.

He made the most of it, delivering a message that was interrupted several times by applause and that ended with messengers on their feet, calling Luter back to the podium for a final exhortation.

In many ways, it was a fitting honor for an amazing story.

In 1986, Luter was a street preacher in New Orleans when Louisiana Baptist leaders asked him to become pastor at Franklin Avenue Church.

The New Orleans congregation had undergone inner-city transition and was down to a few dozen members. Although Luter never had served as a pastor, Louisiana Baptist leaders entrusted him with the church.

They also made it plain that he was to bury it or resurrect it. Whichever one it turned out to

be was up to Luter, they said.

Luter chose not to preside over a funeral. Instead, he launched a three-pronged ministry focusing on biblical preaching, discipling men, and establishing a sense of accountability among church leaders and members.

Things began to change and then began to explode.

Fifteen years later, the church has grown to be one of the largest in the state, numbering more than 6,000 members and standing as a perennial state leader in baptisms.

Meanwhile, as Luter's story became known, Southern Baptist leaders embraced the young pastor. He began to speak across the convention. He even was elected as second vice president of the national body in 1996, the last time the annual meeting was held in New Orleans.

Upon its return to New Orleans last week, Luter again was a focus of attention.

"I realize that I'm standing on the shoulders of other African-American pastors and denominational workers... who were trailblazers long before I ever was a Southern Baptist," he said.

"My brothers, I honor you for your commitment to the Lord



LUTER FIRES UP CONVENTION — Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, presents the Convention Sermon as the 144th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention convenes in his hometown. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

and to this convention. I want to make it known tonight, I am standing on your shoulders."

Luter then launched his sermon, based on Matthew 9:35-38. As other speakers before him, Luter focused squarely on the convention theme of evangelism. "The theme of this convention is

'Until he comes, go, ...' he noted, 'but the question of tonight is, are we doing just that?'

Luter asked messengers to consider what a tragedy it would be to have a fish that could not swim or a dog that could not bark or a cat that could not meow.

"It would be really sad, really tragic for none of those things to do what God created them to do," he said. "But all of those things do what God created them to do."

In contrast, consider the pain God must feel when humans do not do what God has created them to do, Luter added.

"Think of the hurt God feels when men don't want to be men. Think of the hurt God feels when women don't want to be women," he emphasized. "Think of the hurt God feels when husbands don't love and wives don't respect their husbands."

"Think of the hurt God feels when teenagers and children don't respect their parents in the Lord. Think of the hurt God feels when preachers don't practice what they preach."

"It's no wonder our nation is messed up. When people don't do what God created them to do, we reap the consequences... and that's why, Southern Baptists, the Master is calling for laborers."

Southern Baptists must heed the call, Luter declared. In doing so, he reminded Baptists to remember four things found in the Matthew 9 passage:

- The concern of Jesus.
- The compassion of Jesus.
- The cry of Jesus.
- The command of Jesus.

Southern Baptists have enough choir members, musicians, deacons, pastors, and others, Luter asserted. "We need laborers."

"What about you, my brother? What about you, my sister. Can the Lord count on you to go until he comes? Can the Lord count on you to go until he comes? ..."

"Southern Baptists, can you say, 'Lord, count on me?'"

## Executive board approves reorganization

The reorganization of the national organization, which will be completed by the end of the year, was approved by the executive board last week.

The board also approved the creation of a new department for the national organization, which will be responsible for the coordination of the national organization's activities.

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to" which described how WMU works in the local church. The board also approved the creation of a new department for the national organization, which will be responsible for the coordination of the national organization's activities.

Lee also outlined the comprehensive Internet strategy, which will allow customers to find products, services, and order WMU products. The board also approved the creation of a new department for the national organization, which will be responsible for the coordination of the national organization's activities.

Other phases of development will follow over the next three years, Lee said. "We believe this expansion is essential to the growth of the national organization," he said. "We will continue to add new products and services to the WMU program, and we will continue to expand our reach into new markets."

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# Billy Kim tells WMU America needs revival

NEW ORLEANS (Editor's Notebook) — "America is the greatest nation on earth, and God blesses America more than any other," Baptist World Alliance (BWA) President Billy Kim told attendees gathered in New Orleans June 11 for a meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Yet America needs "God's criteria for revival," he added. "Hope is in Jesus Christ."

Kim was one of the keynote speakers for the WMU annual meeting June 10-11 in New Orleans. Other speakers were Rhonda Kelley, author and wife of the president of New Orleans Seminary; Bible study leader Daniel Sanchez of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth; and a host of international and North American missionaries.

Kim told the standing-room-only crowd that America is a blessed country, controlling more than 50% of the world's wealth but has less than six percent of the world's population.

He said America grows all possible crops in her soil, and wherever the American flag is flown, it represents peace and freedom.

"Now let's look at the state of the nation," said Kim. America has more pregnant teenagers, violence, crime, and suicide than many other countries. Alcoholism, homosexuality, and adultery have become accepted.

"The world watches America, and America watches TV. Farmers get paid for not farming; teachers get paid for anarchy. If (America) forgets God, she'll have to face the wrath of God. We need people who know how to pray for revival in this nation."

Kim, pastor of the 15,000-member Central Church of Suwon, Korea, emphasized the important role women in Korea play in the growth and revival of his church. Sixty percent of his members are women, and 90% of the cell-group leaders are women.

"They have a prayer meeting at 4:30 every morning, 365 days a year. I hope I'm not getting in trouble advocating women at the Southern Baptist Convention," Kim said, "but that's why Korean churches are experiencing revival."

"If the United States wants to see revival, mothers and daughters need to get on their knees," he urged.

WMU President Janet Hoffman of Farmerville, La., likened the "beyond belief" historical journey of WMU to the personal journey of Abraham.

Reminding the women that God called Abraham to leave his own country and

family to go to a place God would reveal to him, Hoffman said Abraham's journey was a "journey with a purpose, a journey of faith and a journey of promise."

Since its earliest beginnings, WMU has been on a journey with a main purpose of missions, Hoffman said.

Today, "our journey continues... with that same purpose."



## THE PASTOR'S KIDS

I recall, a few years ago, when a newspaper in a small town here in Mississippi began publishing all the crimes, tickets, and various citations that were given each week. I remember the furor that broke out as the townfolks wrote letters and raised cane about the paper's new policy.

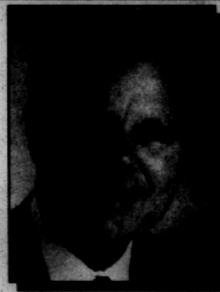
One of the big issues that people kept raising was that when the paper published the incidents naming the people involved, the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" was destroyed. If a person's name appeared in the paper over the next hours and days in barber shops, cafes, and city club meetings — they were discussed, deliberated, tried, convicted, and even punished in the court of public opinion.

On the other side of the issue stood the First Amendment, protecting freedom of speech. You can imagine that while the community and the paper clashed, one of the enjoyable features for the publisher was that more papers were sold. Neither side wanted to back down and after a while such news lost its luster.

Recently, the President's twin daughters have been in hot water! I honestly do not want to add ink or insult to their injuries. It is bad enough to have your failures highlighted as lead stories by every news organization in the world, and maybe even more problematic, to have to face Laura and George W.

Then, at some point or other, they will have to see grandmother Barbara. Although I do not agree with what they did, or the way they did it, they do not need me to add to their woes.

In light of their problems and everyone talking about them, I would like to ask you to think about your pastor's children and how you treat them.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Through the years there have been jokes and stories told about the preacher's kids — how mean they are; how often they foul up; and, the various causes that made them the way they are.

Maybe not always, but most of the time, they are just normal kids that happen to be born into a family that is constantly on the public radar screen. They are just children who have a dad, who by virtue of his calling must stand up and speak to a congregation or to crowds several times each week.

They, in turn, must live up and live out according to the high principles that he espouses.

There are few, if any, who are actually up to the task, and there are many, if not most, who are ready to announce when a failure takes place.

I'm certainly no expert on this subject, but being the son of a preacher, the brother of a preacher, and the father of a preacher, I have at least lived out and seen some of the awkwardness that comes from being in a pastor's family.

Let me pass along a few suggestions that may be helpful in dealing with the preacher's kids or in dealing with children whose parents may be high-profile in the community.

The first word that I would offer is **Respect**. Our Lord Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We call it the Golden Rule and it ought to be one of the guiding principles in our Christian behavior.

Before we comment on Jenna or Barbara, the politician's, or the preacher's kids, it might be good to ask and evaluate, "Would I want someone saying those things about my child?"

A second word I would suggest is **Reject**. Maybe this is just the flip side of respect, but I think it is important to reject the application of a double standard.

Kids ought to be allowed to be kids in the context of their setting, and in that arena, experience both the accolades and consequences of their actions.

I recall one time one of my mom and dad's boys got caught doing something that he should not have been doing. Well, okay — I admit that it was me!

One day after church, a buddy of mine and I were playing around. What we were doing was neither immoral nor illegal, but we probably should not have been involved in the activity.

The other boy's father came and found us and expressed his horror about what "I" was doing. He said not a word to his son, but wanted me to know how disappointed he was in my actions.

As if that was not enough, he went to my dad and told him what he had found "me" doing. He never mentioned his boy and he never said anything to his son, but I was the preacher's kid and therefore, I should have known better and been better!

I'm grown up now, educated, and love the Lord with all my heart, yet I still struggle with my imperfections. I can assure you that as a nine-year

old boy, I was not able to live up to the high standards that the church folks wanted to impose on me.

At times it would have helped if people would have rejected imposing a double standard, and had allowed me the freedom to be like they thought their kids ought to be.

One last word I would like to offer is **Remember**. As you and I think about others, watch others, and even comment on the actions of others, remember your own human frailties and your own dumb decisions in days gone by.

In his letter to the church at Galatia, the Apostle Paul says, "If any man be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual restore such a one considering thyself."

Paul knew that whatever anyone else may have done, whatever sin, whatever fault, whatever failure, that it could have been him.

You, like me, probably have said at some point, "I would never..." You probably are right — that you would not do certain things, but there are other things that you quietly have done about which others would say, "I would never..."

Growing up I never did what the Bush girls reportedly did. In fact, I can honestly tell you that it never occurred to me to do those things.

But, I am sure that I have probably done things about which they might shake their heads and say, "I can't believe he did that!"

We would all do well to remember that Jesus warned us about the coming judgmental optometrists who go around digging out specks from other folks eyes, while having a huge plank stuck in one of their own eyes.

Maybe we should pray, "Lord, help me to be as forgiving of those great big faults I see in others as I want them to be when they see the little mistakes that I make."

**KIM EXHORTS WMU** — Billy Kim, president of the Baptist World Alliance, preaches during the June 10 evening session of the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome. (BP photo by Justin Veneman)



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Killen, Fain, Saxon, and Apperson

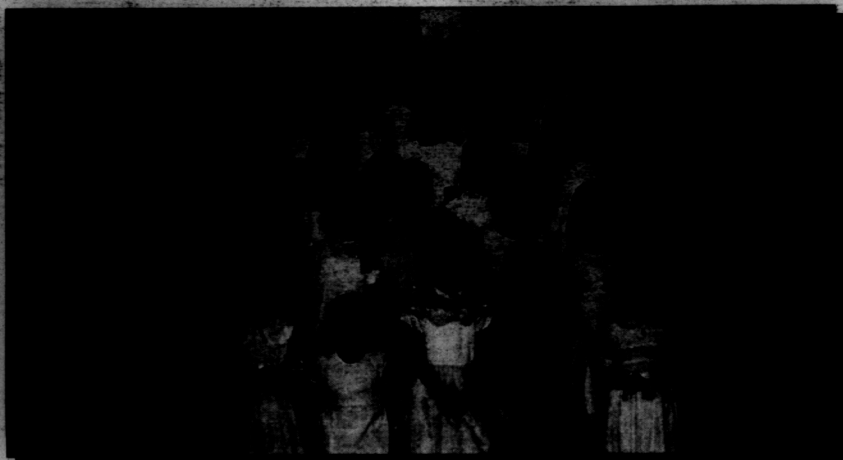
Youth and children of Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc County (pictured), who recently participated in Bible drills are (front row, from left) Bridgette Fain, Justin Werner, Sherry Armour, Luke Werner; (back row, from left) John Coltharp, Matt Brooks, and Grant Werner. Randy Buse is pastor.

First Church, Lucedale, held GAs recognition service on May 20. GAs pictured (front row, from left) are Kaitlyn Morgan, Kristyn Strahan; (second row) Maggie Branson, Brooke Havard, Natalie Gilmore, Carrie Dickerson, and Jacquelyn Ladner; (third row) Taylor Rounsaville, Toni Kittrell, Jordan Smith, Kathryn Ruth, RaeAnn Jones, Heathe Mardis, Brittany Turner; and (fourth row) Hannah Adkins, Lauren Gardner, Deanna Turner, and Jamie Scott. Leaders pictured are Tracey



Bible Drill participants of Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc County

The youth of Beatline Church, Neshoba County, recently participated in Bible drills. Dana Apperson rated superior at the state Bible Drill. Pictured (from left) are Lee Killen, minister of music; Paige Posey; Brian Saxon; and Apperson.



GA Recognition Service was held on May 20 at First Church, Pontotoc. Pictured with the GAs is Ken Hester, pastor.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Spain, Nethery, and Fisher

Mary Jane Nethery (center), a 1952 graduate, was named 2001 Alumna of the Year by the Blue Mountain College Alumnae Association during the May meeting. Sarah Spain (left), association

president is shown making the presentation with President E. Harold Fisher.



TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

Mardis and Debbie Brannan. Noia Gilmore, leader, not pictured.

First Church, Brookhaven, recently hosted an informational seminar about China adoptions. Organizers of the meeting were Lynne Lofton and Jennifer Misner. Peggy Bridges, social worker with Bethany Christian Services, presented the requirements and process



GAs of First Church, Lucedale

for adopting a child from China. For additional information, call Bridges at (601) 366-4282 or (800) 331-5876.



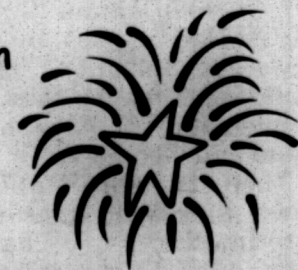
Members of First Church, Brookhaven

## COUNTRY WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH

presents

Byram's 4th of July Celebration  
of God and Country  
Wednesday, July 4, 2001  
Activities begin at noon  
Fireworks at 9:15 p.m.

Come for food, games, and music



Country Woods Baptist Church  
6737 Siwell Road  
For Information Call:  
(601) 371-7955





What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 21, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## 2001 Family Week

### Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 2-6, 2001

#### Conferences:

- Preschool/Children's TeamKIDS
- Mini-Centrifuge with  
Mickey and Alice Little, Mobile
- Couples - Ronnie and Beverly  
Cottingham, Lucedale
- Single Parenting  
James Hayes, FBC, Biloxi
- Transformational Hearts  
Eugene Dobbs, Philadelphia, Miss.

#### Special Events:

- BBQ cookout
- Whole "free" day
- Crafts, clowning workshops
- Ice cream and watermelon fellowship
- Night swimming

#### Special Guests:

- His Praise Ensemble, Vicksburg
- Hilton Family Singers
- Joseph Harris, magician

For more information contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

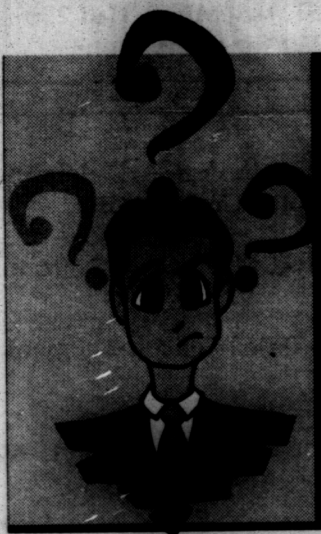
**A WMU regional training event, featuring:**  
Wanda Lee, executive director, WMU, SBC  
Esther Burroughs, noted author & speaker  
Gwen Williams, worship leader  
Missionaries  
Nine conference sessions

#### Midwest Conference Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Association: \_\_\_\_\_

- Package includes transportation, 4 nights lodging, program fee and conference meals. (Travel meals are on your own.)
- Total cost due at registration. Deadline to register, July 10.
- Substitutions may be made at any time. No refunds after July 24.
- Make checks payable to MBCB (designate for Windermere Women's Conference) and mail with registration form to Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.
- Contact Miss. WMU office for more information, in Jackson, 292-3316, or 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

Travel Schedule: Depart from Garaywa, Aug. 15; Conference, Aug. 16-17; Depart from Windermere, spend night in route to Mississippi, Aug. 18; Arrive at Garaywa, Aug. 19.



#### Leadership Conferences

Younger Preschool  
Older Preschool  
Younger Children  
Middle Children  
Older Children  
Younger Youth  
Older Youth  
Young Adults  
Median Adults  
Senior Adults  
General Officers  
Pastor/Staff

**Ever had this thought?**  
**"If I could just do a few things to make my Sunday School better..."**  
**Then Super Saturday is for you!**

## Super Saturday

#### CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

Saturday, August 25, 9 a.m.-noon

- First Baptist Church, Grenada
- Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Saturday, September 8, 9 a.m.-noon

- Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian

Cost: \$2 per person, which covers all conference materials as well as a copy of the book, "Beyond the Walls: Ten Best Practices."

Conference leaders will be special Sunday School equippers from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as well as LifeWay conference leaders.

For more info, please contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at  
1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800



# CML MINISTRY

MEDIA LIBRARIES...

## 2001

Ephesians 4:4-6

### SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

- **TEAMWORK-DEWEY, SEARS AND ME**  
Leader: Eva Nell Hunter
- **AUTOMATION WITH CONCOURSE**  
Leader: Eva Nell Hunter
- **CONCOURSE EXTRAS**  
Leader: Eva Nell Hunter
- **PROMOTION LAGNIAPPE**  
Leaders: Eva Nell Hunter and Sue Berthelot
- **CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY MINISTRY**  
Leader: Sue Berthelot
- **MEDIA SELECTION**  
(with emphasis on wedding)  
Leader: Sue Berthelot

For more info, contact:  
Broadcast Services, MBCB  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson  
601-968-3800

Summer 2001

Church Media  
Library  
Conference  
Growing  
Churches  
Through  
Discipleship

### CONFERENCE FEES AT GULFSHORE

Registration will begin at 1:30 pm.

A" unit (2 persons per room)	
Adults	86.20
Youth	86.20
Child (Age 2-11)	41.85
Babies	2.00

"C" unit (2-4 persons per room)

Adults	78.60
Youth	42.50
Child (Age 2-11)	23.75
Babies	2.00

All reservations must be made directly with GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY. Call 228-452-7261 for reservations.

OUTREACH

## TEAMS

No pre-registration  
No cost for conference  
No child care

THAT WIN

G . R . O . W .  
C O N F E R E N C E

## G•R•O•W

August 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church, Brookhaven



Leader: Jerry Tidwell

Author and developer of *Outreach Teams That Win: G.R.O.W.*

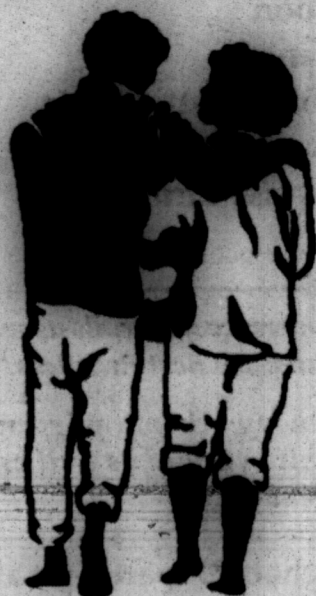
Also: Lonnie Sanders  
Minister of Education  
West Jackson Baptist Church  
Jackson, Tenn.

"G.R.O.W." is based on Dr. Tidwell's phenomenally successful outreach approach. Under this proven-effective plan church members are asked to commit just one evening each month to outreach...with several different avenues from which they can choose. You will not want to miss this opportunity!

For more information, please contact the  
Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or  
968-3800 in Jackson, or e-mail (jclendinning@mbcb.org).

## Pastor Wife and Retreat

August 10-11, 2001  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



**Leaders:** L.B. and Nancy Jordan, Arkadelphia, Ark. L.B. is retired director of Church-Minister Relations, Arkansas Baptist Convention.

**Music/Worship Leader:** Eric McNair, minister of music, McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl

**Purpose:** To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

#### Reservation and Registration:

- Participation is limited to the first hundred (100) couples that register for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore.
- You may use the 2001 *Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Information* brochure's registration form or register using the form below.

**Cost Per Person:** Adults, \$44.50 Children ages 12 & up, \$24.75 Children ages 2-11, \$13.63 Children under 2, \$1  
Full scholarships for pastors are available, but each will be responsible for the cost of his wife and/or children. Please indicate choice on the registration form below.

**Childcare:** Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

#### Pastor & Wife Retreat Registration • August 10-11, 2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the type of accommodations needed: ☐ Couple only ☐ Couple with children

Total number in family \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of children \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship for pastors only: ☐ yes ☐ no

Please mail or fax to: Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Phone: 228-452-7261 Fax: 228-452-7263

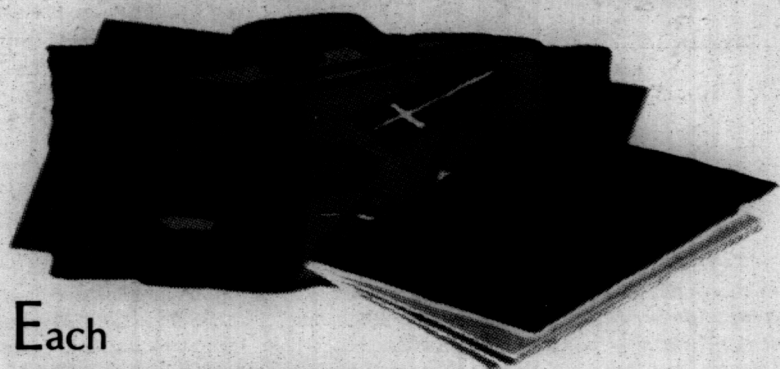
Please include a deposit of \$40 per person and \$80 per family. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

Sponsored by: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Matt Buckles, director

For more info: Call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-292-3305.



## VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT



Each year our department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc.

Please help us by reporting your church and/or association involvement. Complete and return to us a copy of the form for each project in which your people (individuals, youth, adults, etc.) participated.

**Contact the Men's Ministry, MBCB, for a report form. Remember to send your report by August 15!**

**Be sure to include all projects from August 2000 to August 2001**

**Call: 1-800-748-1651 or  
in Jackson, 601-968-3800**

## Growing Churches Conference



*"Equipping  
Church Leaders  
for the 21st Century"*

**Growing Churches  
Through Discipleship**

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
July 26-28**

For more information:  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB  
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 (in Jackson)

## Mississippi W. MU Church Leadership Training

### FOR ALL CHURCH WMU LEADERSHIP

**August 6**

**FBC Batesville, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**August 7**

**FBC Gulfport, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**August 9**

**Camp Garaywa (two sessions, attend one only)  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**No cost/No registration required**

*For more info, call the Mississippi WMU department at  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3316 or E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org*

## WMU Women's Retreat

**"Only Jesus...Beyond Belief!"**

**August 24-25**

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**



**Jaye Martin**  
Women's  
Evangelism  
Strategist  
NAMB, SBC



**Teri Metts**  
Hem Touchers  
Ministry  
Crossgates BC  
Brandon, Miss.



**Mirta  
Vazquez**  
(Hispanic  
Women's  
Retreat)

*Also featuring Joan Tyler, Sandra Nash and Pam Carlisle*

### WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Women \_\_\_\_\_ x Cost Per Person =  
Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost:** • \$50 (no refunds after Aug. 3)  
• \$28.25 (no lodging), includes  
registration and meals  
• \$13 registration fee only  
(no lodging or meals)

**Call Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at  
(228)452-7261 to register by phone  
using your MasterCard or Visa.**

**Make checks payable to:  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.**

**Mail registration form and payment to  
Women's Retreat  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
100 First Street  
Pass Christian, MS 39571**



# Pray this day for...

June 22 - July 5, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Prayer is the expression of man's sense of dependence and helplessness. Man spontaneously calls for help in moments of peril, and in moments of exaltation he ascribes praise to the power that controls his destiny."

From the "Gospel of Redemption, by W. T. Conner

Thank God that ISC workers Gary and Bertha Fagan arrived in Brasilia to lead the International Baptist Church. This church ministers to English-speaking diplomats and members of the business community. Pray for the Fagans and this ministry.

For: Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis); (2) Pray for movements of God's Spirit among the women of Dhaka city, Bangladesh. Some have said that women are the strategic key to the Muslim world.

For: (1) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp; Central Hills Retreat, (Men's Ministry); (2) GA Summer Camp; Camp Garaywa, (WMU); (3) Pray for Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge of Cameroon (between Nigeria and Chad).

For: (1) Family Enrichment Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, (D&FM); (2) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, (WMU); (3) Pray today for Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

Continue to pray for the university ministry in Cordoba, Argentina, that is making contacts through English-conversation groups. Also pray that God will send others to Argentina to continue this work with the 120,000 students in Cordoba.

Missionaries Mark and Liz Bethune of Venezuela ask you to pray for the pastors of Los Valles del Tuv who have come together to form a mission coalition. The first mission offering was gathered, and the churches are excited that they exceeded their goal!

Missionaries David and Joy Borgan thank God for new Christians baptized on Easter Sunday at the prison in Spain. Joy writes: "Two of them, only six months ago, were shouting out and making fun of their Christian friends who were being baptized."

Independence Day - Pray for God's mercies and favor upon our nation and for its welfare. Pray for our president, his cabinet, legislators and ambassadors to have God in their public and private lives. Pray for God's protection of our police, firefighters, etc.

Julio Ruiz, of Delta, BC, Canada, is a church planter pastor at Primera Iglesia Bautista. He is recovering from heart surgery. Pray that he will rest in the Lord and allow his body to recover quickly and completely. Pray for the interim pastor.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) Older Children's Retreat; Central Hills; (3) Pray that the heart of the Maldives government would be moved to a more favorable disposition to the Word of God.

For (1) Lad/Dad Weekend Camp; Central Hills Retreat; (2) Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa, (WMU); (3) Heartsong '01 Youth Music Conference, (Church Music)

22

The Shandong Province, China, has had a missionary presence since the 1860s, but the Christians in Zaozhuang make up only about 2 percent of the city's population. Pray that the thousands of lost people in this city will soon clearly hear the gospel.

In Nepal, after the tragic deaths of many members of the royal family, pray that the new king will rule with fairness and diplomacy. Pray that he might have the opportunity to meet the King of Kings and follow Him. Pray that God will use these circumstances to draw people to Himself.

Godly men meet weekly for prayer and Bible study in a courtyard in Cote D'Ivoire. A blind woman who overheard their discussion received Christ as her Savior. Pray for this woman as she is blind and struggles with daily living because of her disability.

## Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

Mississippi Coliseum  
Jackson  
Friday, July 27  
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Plan Now  
to Bring Your  
Church Youth Group



Rick Ousley  
Speaker



Michael John Clement  
Worship Leader

For more information, contact: MCB Evangelism Department  
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 (in Jackson)

## Mississippi Baptist State Softball Tournament Dates

	Sunday School Enrollment	Dates
Class A	0-300	July 20-21
Class AA	301-700	July 27-28
Class AAA	701 & above	August 10-11

For more info, contact:  
Tom Prather  
Men's Ministry  
MCB  
1-800-748-1651 or  
601-292-3337

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

1-91  
JESSE S. BUSH  
B.P. 15, Kenieba MALI  
Parents: Karl & Lena Bush  
Community Outreach  
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

6-83  
AUDRA C. FUNDERBURK  
01 B.P. 6491, Abidjan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)  
Parents: Rickey & Lori Funderburk, Administrative Associate  
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

20-00  
BENTON E. HEWITT, III  
Baptist Medical Centre, Box 50, Nalerigu, via Gambaga, GHANA  
Parents: Earl & Ramona Hewitt, Medicine  
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

28-86  
ROSS E. FUNDERBURK  
01 B.P. 6491, Abidjan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)  
Parents: Rickey & Lori Funderburk, Administrative Associate  
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

31-82  
MARK W. HENDRICKS  
9200 UNIVERSITY BLVD, P O Box 118087  
CSU Box 255, Charleston, SC 29423  
Parents: Larry & Mary Hendricks, General Evangelism  
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA



# HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



East Moss Point Church, Moss Point, had groundbreaking and dedication services for its new church building on Sunday, June 3. A total of 45 people were in attendance. Pictured (from left) are Ernest Sadler, missions director, Jackson County Association; Alva Ray McCorkle, pastor; Denson Smith, deacon; Eugene Stauter, trustee; Jim Moore, trustee; Billy Wilks, trustee; Larry Carpenter, deacon; Richard Canfield, treasurer; Eugene Smith, deacon; Norman Wells, chairman of the deacons; J. Robert Lott, director of music; and Webb Steadman, building contractor.

First Church, Fulton, held dedication services for its new facility on May 6. The church celebrated its first Sunday in the new facilities on April 29 with

Futral and Winders

221 in Sunday School and 295 in morning worship service. The facility has education space for 554 and a sanctuary that will seat 576 people. Speakers for the week were Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Walter Price of Beaumont, Calif.; Martin Hayden of Liberty; Roy McHenry of Aberdeen; Billy Langley of Tupelo; and former interim pastor, Ed Deuschle, MBCB. Pictured with Futral is Tommy Winders, pastor of First Church.

Youth choir of Liberty Church, Liberty, will present the musical, *Rescue 101*, at the church on July 1st at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. This is the home concert after returning from their tour to New York, June 21-29. The group is made up of students from three school districts and three schools. The musical is under the direction of Danny Von Kanel, minister of music.



Youth choir of Liberty Church, Liberty

## STATE CHANGES

Friendship Church, McComb, has called Jamie Jackson as minister of youth, effective June 6. A native of McComb, Jackson received his education at Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit, and Mississippi College. He previously served as interim youth minister at Friendship Church, McComb. LaVerne Summerlin is pastor.

McCondy Church, McCondy, has called Steve Griffin as pastor. A native of Chickasaw County, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University, New Orleans Seminary, and has done work toward his doctorate of ministries at Wake Forest Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

First Church, Verona, has called Marc D. Howard as pastor effective April 30. A native of Belmont, Howard received his education at Bethany Bible College, Dothan, Ala., and Southern Baptist School of Biblical Studies, Jacksonville,

Fla. His previous place of service was First Church, Gordo, Ala. Other churches he served were Calvary, Belmont; East Prentiss, New Site; and Holly, Corinth.

Mt. Olive Church, Meridian, has called Terry L. Upchurch as pastor effective May 27. Upchurch is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Crenshaw Church, Crenshaw.



Upchurch

Second Church, Greenville, has called Ronny Spivey as pastor. A graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., Spivey has pastored in Mississippi since 1987.

## Homecomings

First, Pontotoc: July 29; 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m. singing; Gordon Sansing, Forest, guest speaker; Jim Hess, music; Ken Hester, pastor.

Corinth, Heidelberg, July 1; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds followed with the Hill Family singing; Edd Holloman, speaker.

## CONGRATULATIONS! Park Place Baptist Church

Pearl, Mississippi  
**Dr. Bob Dominy, Pastor**

For securing \$1.25 million of  
20-year fixed rate financing at 8.09%



For information contact:

Mark McNeece  
Regional Vice President  
601-948-4500  
800-748-8877

**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR** for Deerfield Church, P.O. Box 973, Madison, MS 39130; (601) 856-5959 or fax: (601) 898-1874.

**PART-TIME YOUTH/MUSIC MINISTER** in Neshoba County. Send resumes to Beatline Baptist Church, Search Committee, 12345 Road 505, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Daytime (601) 656-3653, leave message.

**CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES DIRECTOR** needed. Please send resume to Morrison Heights Baptist Church, 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS 39056 or fax to (601) 924-5622, ATTN: Jennifer.

**PART-TIME PIANIST NEEDED** & part-time youth/children's minister needed. Please send resume to Hurley Baptist Church, P.O. Box 395, Hurley, MS 39555.

## Arkansas Bus Sales, Inc.

No CDL Required

Van Replacement 15 Passenger  
Call Toll Free (800) 822-5307



# Mississippians honored at NOBTS luncheon

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

It can be considered quite a coup for Mississippi Baptists, when three of five Distinguished Alumni Awards at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) go to "our own."

At the 2001 National Alumni and Friends Reunion June 13 on the NOBTS campus, Mississippians Kermit McGregor, Thomas Messer, and Mary Wheeler Messer were all recognized for distinguished service as NOBTS alumni.

McGregor is pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, and the current president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"If there is a job in Mississippi Baptist life, this man has either had it or said 'no,'" quipped NOBTS President Chuck Kelley in his introduction of McGregor.

"He's been an outstanding denominational servant as well as a fine local church pastor."

"It's very unusual to have a husband and wife recognized as distinguished

alumni," Kelley stated in his introduction of Thomas and Mary Messer.

"These are very precious friends of this institution. They've both made valuable contributions over the years. Mary Messer served for many years as Baptist Student Union director at Southeast Missouri State University, and Thomas Messer pastored several different churches as well as holding the Baptist Chair of the Bible at the same university.

"They have helped us establish scholarship funds for the seminary," Kelley continued. "This past year the Vatican made available a very limited number of facsimile copies of the Codex Vaticanus, one of the most important manuscripts of ancient Scripture existing in the world today.

"The Messers very graciously gave us the gift to allow us to be one of the few institutions in the world to have one of the facsimile copies of this document."

Messer took advantage of the moment to reminisce.

"I don't know what they're charging you folks at the seminary now," he said, "but when I enrolled they charged me 20

MESSERS RECEIVE AWARDS — Thomas Messer (right) and his wife Mary (center) receive Distinguished Alumni Awards from NOBTS President Chuck Kelley. Thomas Messer is a former professor at Southeast Missouri State University; his wife is the former Baptist Student Union director at the same institution. (Photo by Tony Martin)

dollars." Gesturing to his wife, Mary, he continued, "They charged her ten. I understand they're still letting the wives go through for half of the price of the husband. I hear it's gone up a bit."

"I want to thank the Lord for what he's done," said Mary Messer. "We know of no better place to share than this seminary."



**MCGREGOR HONORED** — Kermit McGregor (right), pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, and current president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, receives a Distinguished Alumni Award from New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley. (Photo by Tony Martin)

**Pine Level, Leakesville:** July 5-7; Thurs. and Fri., 6-8:30 p.m.; Sat., 9-noon; David Grayson, interim pastor.

**Leaf River Church, Smith County:** June 25-29; 6-9 p.m.; preschool age through sixth

grade; commencement, Sunday, July 1, 11 a.m., followed with lunch.

**Lowrey Memorial Church, Tippah County,** had an average daily attendance of 35 children for Vacation Bible School.

**Thrasher Church, Booneville,** held Vacation Bible School, June 4-8, with an average attendance of 125 nightly. Directors were Sandy Johnson and Laci Huddleston. Kevin Merritt is pastor.



VBS participants at Thrasher Church, Booneville



VBS participants at Lowrey Memorial Church, Tippah County

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# Baptist teens hard at work during meeting |

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Call them the unsung heroes of the Southern Baptist Convention.

These are the pages, a carefully selected cadre of young men and ladies who were charged with keeping many of the physical details moving smoothly at the 2001 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans on June 12-13.

Two teenagers from Mississippi served as pages during the convention.

Kimberly Cole, a member of First Church, Brandon, served as a page by virtue of being one of six National Acteens Panelists.

"This was a very selective group," Cole said. "It's quite an honor to be chosen."

Cole arrived in New Orleans the Thursday before the convention began. After attending the Woman's Missionary Union meeting — and participating in the Acteens presentation there — she began her service as a convention page.

"My main

job was to just assist staff people at the convention," Cole said.

"That might involve helping people at the microphones, helping with registration, running errands, or distributing materials in the press room."

Cole, always smiling, continued, "It's a lot of work but it's a lot of fun."

Cole is the daughter of Lloyd and Becky Cole of Brandon. She will be a senior at Brandon High School in the upcoming academic year.

Cole's activities as an Acteens Panelist were highlighted in the April 19 issue of The Baptist Record.



AT HER POST — Kimberly Cole of First Church, Brandon, awaits her next assignment as a page in the office here to keep the pages are of the recording secretary at the Southern Baptist Convention the convention running," also one of six National Acteens Panelists chosen this year explained Blair. "We

Jonathan Blair found himself just as busy as Cole. When a reporter caught up with Blair, he was at his post at "microphone three," juggling copies of resolutions messengers dropped off with him after addressing the convention from his microphone.

"Basically, the pages are here to keep the convention running," Blair explained. "We

have to keep registration stocked with materials, know where all the events are, but mostly we're here to keep folks happy.

"There are plenty of other responsibilities," he continued, gesturing to a messenger standing by the microphone. "We have to take care of motions and resolutions from here on the floor, run messages from the emergency center to the right people, and generally be available to help the convention staff."

Blair arrived in New Orleans Friday before the convention. He participated in Crossover New Orleans, the annual effort by Southern Baptists to touch the residents of the convention host cities with the Gospel of Christ.

"We were giving free gift bags to folks in the French Quarter," Blair said, "and one lady, a Hindu, wanted to trade one of her 'gods' for what I had. It was pretty wild."

Blair was chosen as a page by virtue of his participation in the Challenger program at his church, and upon recommendation by the Men's Ministry department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the North American Mission Board. He is the son of Gary and Deborah Blair of Clinton, and attends Horn Lake High School. His father is pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson.



MANNING THE MICROPHONE — Jonathan Blair of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, was one of several pages who were responsible for attending to the microphones that messengers used to offer resolutions, debate, or other issues during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans. Blair is in the Challenger ministry of his church and was nominated to be a page by the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## ERLC maps out steps to ending Disney boycott

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Four years after the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) first targeted the Walt Disney Company with a boycott, an SBC agency has laid out what it sees as the requirements for ending the boycott: cease its promotion of homosexuality as a normative lifestyle and allow evangelicals the same access to the entertainment giant as enjoyed by the homosexual community.

Prompted by a motion made during the 2000 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) annual report to the convention proposes four "specific, measurable expectations" the Disney Company must meet before Southern Baptists consider lifting the boycott.

The resolution, calling for Southern Baptists "to refrain from patronizing" the entertainment giant and any of its subsidiaries, was adopted by messengers to the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Dallas. It noted, "The Disney Company has not only ignored our concerns, but flagrantly furthered this moral digression in its products and policies."

The ERLC's 2001 annual report calls for Disney to cease its promotion of "Gay Days" at its theme parks; halt the publication of pro-homosexual books;

refrain from advocating the "radical homosexual agenda" through its broadcast venues; and "establish an advisory committee of Southern Baptists and other evangelicals" to provide Disney "advice and counsel" on their entertainment projects.

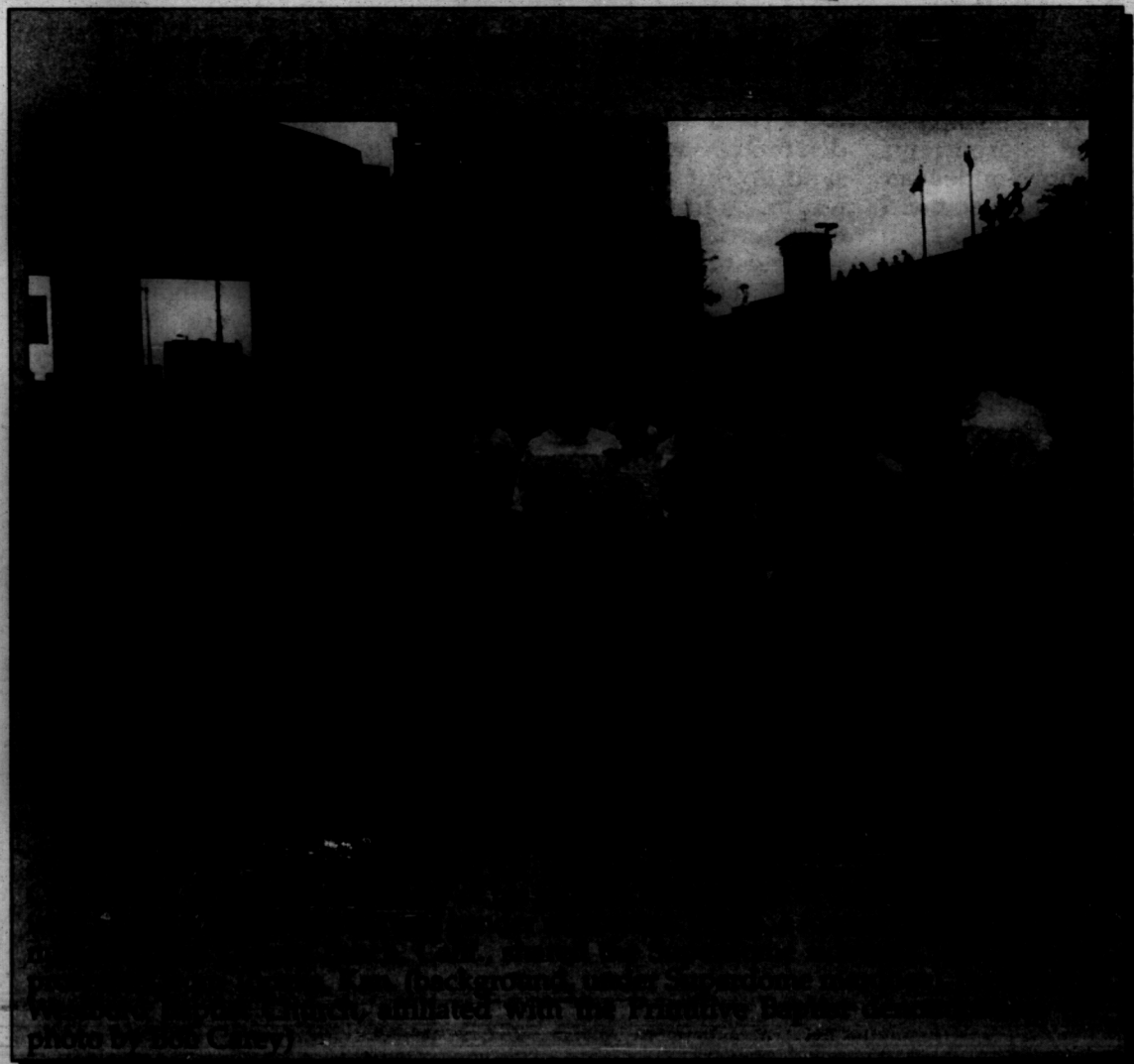
The report does not bind the convention as to how the boycott is handled, said ERLC president Richard Land. "This is our trustees' response to a motion from the convention. The convention is free to affirm, ignore, or adapt these recommendations," Land said.

The call for economic action against Disney and other Hollywood studios can only be rescinded or modified by a vote of the SBC. The resolution known best for its call to boycott Disney urged Southern Baptists "to take the stewardship of their time, money, and resources so seriously" that they would withhold support of "any company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices."

In a move unrelated to this report, Disney officials announced June 11 that the Disney Channel would no longer feature music videos and concert specials. According to a USA Today report, Disney Channel general manager Rich Ross indicated that "increasingly risqué videos" at least partially contributed to the kid-oriented channel's change of policy.

In other news, Disney announced in March their intention to cut their workforce by 4,000 employees company-wide.

According to the news report, the media conglomerate will trim its workforce by an additional 1,000 worldwide by the end of July.





# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Staying faithful

Matthew 26:39-41

By Kathy Mord Alford

The weary disciples thought the long, eventful day was ending as they walked to Gethsamane. They were not surprised when Jesus, as usual, retreated to pray; but, apparently, this night was not to be typical. Jesus uncharacteristically asked for help while he prayed in the distance.

"Watch with me," he asked Peter, James, and John. "Be vigilant. Don't leave me alone to deal with this crushing sorrow."

Had Jesus ever asked anything for himself from his disciples? He did on that dark night of shadows. He, who had supplied their every need for the past three and a half years, asked only that they watch with him, to hearten him in his

intense grief for what he must face.

Of course, they would watch. After all, Jesus was not only their teacher and friend, but he was also the Messiah. Who better to watch with him than the leaders he was preparing for his kingdom?

Besides, it was their covenant duty to do whatever he asked. The new covenant Jesus had cut with them that very night demanded that any request made of a blood brother be met — no appeal could be denied.

Since all Jesus had, as the Son of God, now belonged to them, his covenant brothers, they were equipped with the very power of God to overcome the enemy. Of course, they would watch.

Later he came to them and



Alford

found them asleep. One hour was all he had asked, one hour to comfort him in his need.

Even then, he looked out for their needs, interceding to the Father for their safety, and warning them of the temptation of physical weakness. Would he have asked anything of them that they could not give?

As a covenant blood brother and as a loving God, he could not request what they could not provide. In fact, what he asked them to do was ultimately for their gain.

"Keep watching and praying, that you may not be tempted," Jesus said, knowing this was the only way the disciples could overcome adversity and obey him.

In asking them to sacrifice an hour's rest, he offered them the supernatural opportunity to be sustained for the future. God the Father would strengthen them just as he had strengthened Jesus, not removing burdens, but supplying fortitude

to endure them.

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," Jesus told Peter. "It is my spirit, not your own, abiding in you now. You have the power of my love and it is stronger than your impotent human nature."

It is significant that Jesus chose to spend his last night on earth in an olive grove, near an olive press. Because of the importance of the olive crop in Israel, the olive tree and its oil were used frequently throughout Scripture to portray God, his blessing, his people, and the Messiah.

The process of harvesting olives would have been familiar to the Jews. Blackened olives were put into a basin, where a millstone crushed them. The pulp was then scooped into woven baskets, which were stacked and pressed with stone weights.

The first pressing produced the best oil. Additional weights were added to obtain more oil of lesser quality. The oil flowed out of the baskets into a pit and was stored in clay jars in a cool area.

It was used in cooking, as fuel for lamps, and for medicinal, cosmetic, and spiritual anointing.

Jesus was pressed, and, though his undeserved suffering and death were the immediate result, they were the means allowing us to be beneficiaries of eternal life. When the disciples were pressed that night, their harvest was temporary, selfish comfort, benefiting not even themselves.

We too are pressed when temptation comes. Our reaction to the pressure proves our commitment as believers.

Evidence of our covenant faithfulness, be it pure or counterfeit, mature or childish, yields our harvest, determining how much light will shine through us and how God can use us to bless others.

Just as light-giving, anointing oil is produced when ripened olives are pressed, what we produce during temptation comes from the fruit in our lives.

Alford is a member of First Church, McComb.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Worship sincerely

Amos 5:4-9; 21-27

By Harold Simmons

Robert Fulton, an artist and engineer was responsible in the early 1800s for putting the sailing ship out of business. He made the steamship a standard on the open seas. It is said that he presented his idea to Napoleon.

After a few minutes of this presentation, Napoleon is reported to have said, "What, sir, you would make a ship sail against the wind and currents by lighting a bonfire under her decks? I pray you excuse me. I have no time to listen to such nonsense."

The comment of Napoleon was the heart-felt reaction of the people of Israel to the preaching of Amos — "I (we) have no time to listen to such nonsense." That did not stop

Amos from continuing the work God had given to him.

Amos sings a song (vv. 1-3). Amos began to sing a dirge or funeral song. The words are sorrow-filled and the tune must have been dreadful and dark. Amos tells of what is to come upon them and the destiny of their nation by saying "never to rise again."

He tells how complete the destruction will be: "A thousand go out and one hundred return... a hundred go out and ten return."

Amos may be suggesting that God will save only a remnant. Amos drives home the point of how sad it is for this nation to neglect their God. A seemingly healthy nation is about to die because they have



Simmons

neglected God and they don't realize it because they are "religious." They have an insidious disease that is rotting the core of their nation.

Not gone or forgotten (vv. 4-17). The people had not forgotten the Lord. Israel had mixed worship of God with the worship of idols. In so doing, they had rejected the Lord.

No longer had Israel obeyed the Lord's command to have no other god. God entreated the people of the Northern Kingdom to seek him and live.

The people of Israel were ardent worshipers. They went to great lengths to get to places of worship — Bethel, Gilgal, and even as far as Beersheba. However, this geographic movement did no good.

Bethel, Gilgal, and Beersheba were all places where others had great encounters with God. However, the Israelites themselves were not having any personal encounters with the Living God at these places.

I had the opportunity to go into the church in London where Charles Haddon Spurgeon preached. Although it was a thrill for me to be there where the great man of God preached and prayed, it was not a worship experience for me.

Someone has written: "A place of worship should be of such character that it will be easy for men to find God and difficult for them to forget him." These places of worship had not helped the Israelites find God. "Seek me and live." God was not gone and he did not want them to forget him.

Getting it right (vv. 5: 18-27). Imagine being in a worship service. The music minister is directing, the choir and congregation appear to be singing but there is no sound. Imagine the preacher speaking the message, but there is no sound.

Of what value would a service like that be? The obvious answer is that it would have no value.

God said through Amos that he would not hear their service nor accept their offerings because their worship was not right. Their gifts were not acceptable unto the Lord because their hearts were not right. They mingled the worship of false gods with that of Jehovah.

The wealthy of the Northern Kingdom also were not right with others because they had abused them to get their wealth. Therefore, God would not accept their worship.

The only way to get right with God is to let justice (how we treat others) roll like a river and righteousness (our relationship with God) like a never-ending stream.

Every worship experience should be as taking the Lord's Supper — we should examine ourselves for unforgiven sin against God or our fellowmen. After forgiveness, there is nothing in the way between God and us. Then, we have it right.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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# Pastor's Conf. hears plea of Mississippian

NEW ORLEANS, La. (Editor's Network and local reports) — Bobby Moore, pastor of Broadway Church, Southaven, told pastors attending the 2001 Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference June 11 in New Orleans of the need to keep on going for the cause of Christ.

He noted that 95% of Southern Baptists have never attempted to win anyone to Christ and that those who have been followers of Christ for a long time tend to stop witnessing.

He suggested five motivations for witnessing: the indwelling presence of Christ, the spiritual need of the lost, one's devotional life, the nearness of the Second Coming, and an understanding of the glory of God.

Preaching from Matthew 13, Smith spoke of Jesus' parable of the tares among the wheat.

It is possible even for pastors to be unsaved without realizing it, he warned.

Being a church member in no way assures that a person is a Christian, Smith said, noting he has encountered many who made decisions as young children but who didn't truly receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

Pastors should make sure people in their churches are truly saved through their own trust in Jesus rather than relying on the faith of their parents or grandparents, he said.

In addition to Falwell and Smith, the Pastors' Conference featured a number of younger pastors and evangelists.

One of those was Dan Spencer, pastor of First Church, Thomasville, Ga., and son of Pastors' Conference President Jerry Spencer.

"God is calling out people today to have the boldness of John the Baptist," Spencer said as he preached from the third chapter of Luke.

"Don't stop preaching about hell, pastor. Bold preaching is needed because the audacity of our culture demands it," he said.

Spencer also warned attendees not to rely too heavily on old methods to reach a lost world undergoing rapid changes. "We are not going to reach the digital generation using Morse Code methods," he said.

Charles Roesel, pastor of First Church, Leesburg, Fla., exhorted pastors to avail themselves of God's spiritual power.

"We must first 'be' something if people are going to listen when we say something," Roesel said.

"The world will listen to us when we live what we talk. The world is not impressed by our buildings. They are turned off by our budgets. They could care less how many people we baptize, but if they see us helping hurting people in love and compassion, they... know we are showing care and compassion," he said.

Bob Pitman, pastor of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, observed that Christians not only have a responsibility to "go" until Christ returns, they have a responsibility to go joyfully.

"We're on the winning side. There is joy in walking with God. There is joy in witnessing for God. The joy comes in telling the story and witnessing in the power of God," he pointed out.



**MOORE CHALLENGES PASTORS** — Bobby Moore, pastor of Broadway Church, Southaven, preaches during the Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention, challenging ministers to keep on going. The Pastors' Conference was held June 10-11 in the Louisiana Superdome. (BP photo by Justin Veneman)



**PRAISE TO THE FATHER** — Susan Cherry, a soloist and member of Broadway Church, Southaven, performs June 11 at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in the Superdome in New Orleans, just prior to a conference sermon by Broadway Church, Southaven, pastor Bobby Moore. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Bibliocipher

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ZNK CUXRJ IGTTUZ  
NGZK EUA; HAZ SK OZ  
NGZKZN, HKIGAYK O  
ZKYZOLE UL OZ, ZNGZ  
ZNK CUXQY ZNKXKUL  
GXK KBOR.

PUNT YKBKT: YKBKT

Clue: C = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: Fifty-One.

"The longer you are a Christian, the more you forget what it is like to be without God in your life," he said.

"Believing in the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ drives us to win the world to Christ," Moore said.

Virginia pastor Jerry Falwell told the group, "It is amazing what God can do with one visionary person who is not at all interested in Harris or Gallup polls, who is not interested in being popular, who is interested only in being pastors."

Falwell urged the pastors present to become anointed visionaries who will "ask God to double our denomination."

While Falwell's church has affiliated in recent years with the upstart Virginia conservative Baptist convention, he has not renounced his ties to non-Southern Baptist religious groups such as Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

Evangelist Bailey Smith warned the crowd that even Southern Baptist churches are full of people who never have had a genuine saving encounter with Jesus Christ.

The urgency of reaching people with the Gospel is a sacred trust given by Christ in Acts 1 before he ascended into heaven, noted Frank Cox, pastor of North Metro First Church, Lawrenceville, Ga.

"Jesus was concerned about the millions who would never see the kingdom unless they were born again. We should be passionate about what Jesus was passionate for."

Randall Jones, pastor of Langston Church, Conway, S.C., spoke on going in love, using Psalm 126:6 as his text.

"If I'm ever to lead souls to the altar, I must love them there," Jones said. "Love is what drives us to go and win souls to Jesus."

Evangelism is best done as Christians work together, said Atlanta-based evangelist Rick Gage.

"I've seen with my own eyes the unlimited potential we have for winning the world for Christ. Yet our greatest need is for us to go together, with a

broken heart and a passion to reach those who do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ," he said.

Philip Robertson, pastor of Philadelphia Church, Deville, La., urged the pastors to go with authority.

He said the authority for believers is the presence of Christ and the authority of God's word.

"Without the presence of Jesus, we are powerless," Robertson said. "Jesus never compromised the preaching of the Word of God... I believe you can preach the word and people will come. ...Worship ought to be about what pleases God and not about what pleases men."

Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Church, Tampa, Fla., was elected president of the Pastors' Conference.

Michael Claunch, pastor of First Church, Slidell, La., was elected vice president.

Charles West, pastor of First Church, Bethalto, Ill., was elected secretary.



**NEW OFFICERS** — Jerry Spencer (left) outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference, presents newly elected officers Michael Claunch, (center) vice president, pastor of First Church, Slidell, La.; and Ken Whitten, president, pastor of Idlewild Church, Tampa, Fla. The Pastors' Conference met June 10-11 in the Louisiana Superdome. (Photo by Kent Harville)